1	2	3	4	5
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	379	361	393
4.	Assam	607	693	711
5.	Bihar	558	615	683
6.	Chandigarh	47351	67581	11731
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	585	751	881
8.	Daman & Diu	1772	3213	3583
9.	Delhi	26567	27018	26605
10.	Goa	5708	6052	6638
11.	Gujarat	2151	2910	3127
12.	Haryana	1830	2213	2337
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1257	1353	1395
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	1756	1730	1991
15.	Karnataka	2773	3281	3763
16.	Kerala	2478	2901	3110
17.	Lakshadweep	314	382	423
18.	Madhya Pradesh	897	1201	1255
19.	Maharashtra	6559	7797	7965
20.	Manipur	485	566	668
21.	Meghalaya	525	496	579
22.	Mizoram	354	409	465
23.	Nagaland	762	711	778
24.	Orissa	823	955	1006
25.	Pondicherry	2953	3168	3238
26.	Punjab	3380	3758	3969
27.	Rajasthan	989	1126	1225
28.	Sikkim	778	818	841
29.	Tamilnadu	3934	4946	5424
30.	Tripura	735	743	766
31.	Uttar Pradesh	821	905	956
32.	West Bengal	2081	2325	2407
	All India	2420	2820	2971

Kerala High Court Bench

1686. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Bench of the Kerala High Court at Calicut;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representations have been received to set up such a Bench in Northern (Malabar) region of Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE : (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) A representation has been received from the Malabar Chamber of Commerce for the setting up of a Bench of the Kerala High Court at Calicut. Action on such representations is taken by the Central Government only after a proposal is received from the concerned State Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. No such proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala.

Special Duty Allowance

1687. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme for payment of special Duty Allowance to the officers and employees working in the North-Eastern Region introduced in the year 1983 was withdrawn in respect of employees only;

(b) if so, the reason for such discriminatory decision and the time from which such withdrawal was effected;

(c) whether an uniform policy for payment of SDA not being followed by all Central Government Offices and Undertakings in the North-Eastern Region;

(d) if so, the present status of SDA payment in all such offices and the action taken to restore uniformity in the interest of providing natural justice and equality in governance;

(e) whether the PSUs under oil sector in the NER are enjoying the North-Eastern Allowance and Remote Locality Allowance since 1991; and

(f) if so, the details of such scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The scheme for payment of special Duty Allowance (SDA) to the Central Government employees posted in the North-Eastern Region which was introduced in 1983 has not been withdrawn. Under this scheme, SDA is payable to those who have "All India Transfer Liability" and have been posted to the N-E region from outside. The term "All India Transfer Liability" of the employee(s) has to be determined by applying the tests of recruitment zone, promotion zone, etc, i.e. whether recruitment to service/cadre/posts has been made on All India

basis and whether promotion is also done on the basis of an All India common seniority list for the service/cadre/posts as a whole.

(c) and (d) The above policy of SDA is required to be followed by all Central Government Offices in the North Eastern Region. The payment of this Allowance has been extended to Central Public Sector Undertaking employees as per the rates applicable to Central Government employees working in the North-Eastern States by the PSUs concerned/ Admn. Departments.

(e) and (f) The North Eastern Allowance/Remote Locality Allowance are being paid to all eligible Central Public Sector employees.

Gratuity Limitation

1688. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4629 dated September 6, 1996 regarding Gratuity ceiling in PSUs and state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the issue of enhancement of gratuity ceiling for employees of Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The Government has decided to enhance the maximum amount to gratuity from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2.50 lakhs.

ICICI's Non-Banking Financial Company

1689. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether ICICI is going to launch its own non-banking financial company;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main features of the proposed company;

(c) whether this company is likely to function on the lines of other non-banking instructions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the areas where this company is likely to give financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE : (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) ICICI has reported that ICICI Credit Corporation Ltd. (I-Credit) has been incorporated on March 27, 1997 and has obtained the certificate for commencement of business on April 25, 1997.

(b) to (e) I-CREDIT has been formed by ICICI to establish ICICI Group's presence in consumer financing, factoring and hire-purchase and to further ICICI Group's presence in leasing.

Deferment of Investment Proposals

1690. SHRI PRATAP SINGH SAINI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of meetings of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPS) held since March, 1, 1997;

(b) whether the Ministry concerned sought deferment of any investment proposals falling under the administrative purview of the Ministry at any meeting of the FIPB; and

(c) if so, the financial impact of each such deferral on : (I) the foreign investor and the investment proposal concerned, (II) on the Governments objective of attracting 10 billion US dollars in foreign direct investment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) During the period from 1.3.1997 to 26.7.1997 twenty meetings of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board have been held.

(b) Consideration of foreign investment propo-sals are sometime deferred at the request of the Administrative Ministries and sometimes due to the rea-sons peculiar to the proposal like lack of information from the applicant companies etc.

(c) The meetings of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) are held every week and investment proposals are considered in a time schedule to minimise delays.

Technical Development in Industrial Sector

1691. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have felt the necessity of research and technical development in the industrial sector to make more competitive in the International Market;

(b) If so, the amount released by the Government to encourage technical development and research during the Eighth Plan period, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government have issued certain directives in regard to technical development in industrial sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.